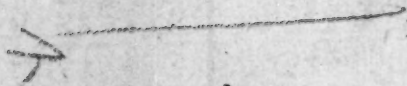




A N
E S S A Y
TOWARDS THE
C H A R A C T E R
O F T H E L A T E
C H I M P A N Z E E .





A N
E S S A Y

TOWARDS THE

CHARACTER

OF THE LATE

CHIMPANZEE,

Who died *Feb.* 23, 1738-9.

*Ostendent torris hanc tantum fata, neque ultra
Esse sinent ———*

*His saltèm accumulem domis, & fungar ipani
Munere.*

VIRG.

L O N D O N:

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An E S S A Y towards
the CHARACTER of the
late CHIMPANZEE.



Have waited some Time
in Expectation of seeing
the Character of the late
imcomparable CHIMPANZEE drawn,
or, at least, attempted by some
able Pen ; but, as nothing of that
Kind hath yet appeared, lest the
Memory of one so justly admired
should be forgot, I have made a
faint Essay towards it,

At

At first, I must own, I was surpris'd that any one so esteem'd by all that had the Happiness to know her, cou'd depart out of this Life without any farther Notice taken of her, than that she was dead : But my Surprise considerably abated when I reflected, that she never had it in her Power to *prefer* any one, or has left behind her one Relation that is able to pay for the Panegyrick.

As I then can have no Manner of View in writing the few following Pages, the Reader must excuse the Incorrectness of them : Had I had any Designs of that Nature in my Head, I should, most certainly, have taken more Pains in my Composition ; or else, as is common

mon in these Cafes, have borrow-
ed from another Character.

I hope I may be indulg'd the
Liberty that is generally taken on
these Occasions ; I mean, of fet-
ting Things in the beſt Light ; or,
in plain Terms, of enlarging a lit-
tle, which, I preſume, is not in-
conſiſtent with Impartiality ; and,
as my Brethren do take the Free-
dom to make Gods of Men, I may,
without Offence, make a Man of
a Monkey.—When I ſay Man,
it cannot be underſtood that I al-
lude to the Sex of this excellent
Perſon ; which was well known to
the Curious.—The Deceas'd was of
that Sex, which, for Beauty and
Gracefulneſs, far ſurpaſſes the other ;
and tho' it may not have the Strength
and

and Courage of the Male, yet has it so many agreeable Charms, and little Tenderneffes, as to render it the more amiable and delightful Object.

She had so many good Qualities and Perfections, that it is difficult to determine where to begin to relate.

It is the Method, I think, in Writings of this Nature, to begin with some Account of the Family of the Person whose Memory we are endeavouring to celebrate: But it is with no small Degree of Concern that I acquaint the World that, after having taken uncommon Pains, I cannot get the least Light into her Pedigree:——Not one of the Family to be found in the whole

whole Herald's Office.—Only to *guesſ* at her Relations would be trifling the Time away, and what I ſhall ſtudiouſly avoid, leſt I give Offence to any of our Noble Families.

It may, however, be ſaid, with Assurance, that, from her Appearance and Carriage, ſhe muſt have been of a Gentleman's Family: Probably a younger Child: And being no great Favourite, and her Father not being able to give her any great Fortune, and the Eſtate ſettled on the eldeſt Son, ſhe might be turn'd out into the wide World to ſhift for Herſelf.—Some imagine, from her Make, ſhe muſt be *Dutch*; others judge her to be *French*, from her Complexion:

B

Some,

Some, again, from her Inclination to sit still, suppose her *German*; and others, from her Gravity, think her *Spanish*, tho' it was never observ'd she was given to *insult*.

Whatever Nation she was of, she needed not to borrow Lustre from Ancestors, when her own Excellencies were so many: Upon which Consideration we can hardly fancy her to be *British*.——It is certain, she did Honour to the Stock she came from, as well by the Symmetry of her outward Figure, as by the more valuable Perfections of her Mind.——Indeed, as she was but young, her Person was not at its utmost Perfection; but, in all Probability, had she
con-

continu'd longer amongst us, it would have been most exactly proportion'd.—Her Countenance carried in it much Delicacy and Sweetness; being set off by a brisk lively Eye, and a most exact Set of Teeth.—Her Gate was wonderfully majestic; and, at the same Time, very easy; insomuch that, had she not had such ill Health, she would long before this have learn'd to dance.

Her Behaviour was such as gain'd the Admiration of all Beholders. There was something so easy in all she did, that she must be allow'd to have been the Standard of genteel Breeding.—She was not under the least Concern if a Man of the first Quality were introduc'd to her;

but behav'd with the same Freedom as she did to an inferior Person.—Here she seem'd to have a great Advantage over her Sex, for a lac'd Coat had just the same Effect on her as a plain one.—Her Demeanour in Private Life was exactly of a Piece with her Publick Character; the same Ease, Freedom, and Affability;—she went little Abroad, imagining she had enough to employ her Time in at Home; but was very glad to see any Body that would vouchsafe her a Visit: Tho' she never return'd any; which no one seem'd to take amiss, because they knew it was her Way:—She had no set Day, or rather every Day in the Week was so; but never would admit

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Company on a *Sunday*, in Spite of a Custom so prevalent among the Ladies.—Though, as it may be suppos'd, she drank a considerable Quantity of Tea in a Week, she was never heard to utter one Word of Slander ;—she never invented a Lie, or improv'd one.—To all Stories of that Kind, she ever was deaf; nor once express'd a Desire to be acquainted with other People's Affairs.

Her Judgment appear'd very remarkable in her Expences ; her Family not being large enough to fill an House, she contented herself with Lodgings : And had for her own Use only a Chamber, and a Parlour for her Visitors.—She had only one Servant, a Lad of about 13 Years
of

of Age ; whom she us'd as a Valet de Chambre ; which, to some Persons, is an infallible Proof of her being of *French* Extraction.—There was a Gentleman always with her ; whom some Ladies (to prevent any Reflections) call'd her Uncle : But I can assure them he was no Relation ; but only her Steward, or, rather, Gentleman Usher to introduce Company.—Her Meals she was always very temperate in ; never eat but of one Dish.—There are innumerable Things in which her Oeconomy was manifested :—To avoid being tedious (if one can be tedious on such a Subject) I shall only mention one Instance : I mean her Dress.—By the voluntary Subscriptions of the Nobility, Gentry, and

and Others, her Income (as her Steward inform'd me) was 300 *l.* *per Ann.* which, as she had no Family, was a very genteel Maintenance; yet she never wore any Thing but what was neat and quite plain.—She thought Linnen on her Head would not suit her Complexion (which was rather dark) and therefore judg'd the most proper Covering to be a little black Jockey Cap.

She thought it a very great Reflection on a Rational Creature to spend her Time in Dress, and to neglect the Cultivation of her Mind.—She had, indeed, taken so much Care to improve her Understanding, that those who were more intimately acquainted with her declared,

clar'd, they never saw so young a Lady give Proof of such strong Judgment and excellent Parts.

Among many shining Qualities she was Mistress of none made a greater Figure than her Publick Spirit. (Another Proof that she was no modern *Briton*.)—However, she had the Interest of this Nation so particularly at Heart, that, in order to encourage the Manufacture, she never would (as I was told by her Mantua-maker) wear any Thing for under Garments but Woollen.—And she had such Regard for the poor People of *Ireland*, that she declar'd her upper Garment (which was a kind of Robe de Chambre) should be made of nothing but *Irish* Linnen.—Had her
Com-

Complexion permitted her to have worn an Head-Dress, the Cambrick Manufacture would have found no Encouragement from her ; and she has often said it, that had she an hundred Children, provided their Complexions would bear it, they should every one wear Muslin.

She was often tempted to take the Diversions of the Town, but could never be prevail'd upon but once ; and that was to see the Entertainment call'd, *The Rape of Proserpine* ; of which she took little Notice, only smil'd to see a Man pretend to act a Monkey.—She could not bear a Play ; there was so much Ribbaldry, and such wanton Gestures introduced on the Stage, that she thought no Wo-

C

man

man that pretended to Modesty could, with any Decency, appear at that Place.——Masquerades she abominated: She could not think it consistent with the Dignity of an Human Creature to act under a Mask: She was so averse to such Behaviour, and had so little to be ashamed of, that it is well known she behaved with all the Openness and Frankness imaginable, and was an utter Stranger to Concealments of any Kind.

It was remarkable that she never played at Cards in her Life: Which, by some, is given as a Reason why she never contracted a great Degree of Intimacy with any of her Sex.——She was most fond of the Men's Company; but often
com-

complain'd that she could not have a Gentleman come to see her, but People would immediately say, 'twas to be a Match.

'Tis very natural to ask, when so many Qualifications center'd in her, how she could continue single so long?—It was not the Want of Admirers (for the whole Town was so) that was the Occasion of this, but her own natural Disposition and Turn of Mind:—She did not think an old Maid so despicable a Creature; and was fully convinc'd there were most Cares in the Married State.

Similitude of Manners generally endears the two Parties to each other; to which a Similitude of Person may sometimes conduce:

Upon this last Principle many Gentlemen were recommended to her, among whom were several Persons of Quality :——And tho' some of them might be pretty ardent and pressing, and endeavour'd to win her by all those little Arts of toying and kissing that are us'd in Amours; yet she refus'd all their Solicitations; but dismiss'd them with much Complaisance and great good Manners.

There were several Gentlemen that had run out their Estates, who imagin'd her to be an Heiress, and of a very considerable Fortune, and would infallibly have stolen her had it not been for the Care and Vigilance of her Steward.—A *Jew* Gentleman was so enamour'd of her that

that he made Proposals of Marriage, and was determin'd to have her at all Events ; but she assur'd him she could never bring herself to like his Person. He afterwards offer'd her Steward an hundred Pieces to procure her, who (like an honest Steward) rejected so scandalous an Offer, telling the Debauchee his Place was so good to him that he hop'd to get twice that Sum in a very short Time.

If she seem'd to have an Inclination for one Gentleman more than another, it was for the Gentleman that is remarkable for his Lowness of Stature and other Accomplishments.—Matters went so far, that they came to an Interview : But when she heard him tell his Tale,
she

ſhe declar'd, with bluſhing and ſome Degree of Confuſion, that ſhe could not bear the Thought of marrying a Man that had been the Father of eight Children.—Some knowing Perſons affirm, by the laſt mention'd Circumſtance, that it would have been a Match; but I'm of Opinion it would not; for, as appear'd by his Rent-Roll, he could not make her a proper Settlement; and no Lady would be ſo imprudent as to marry to worſt herſelf.—Beſides, ſhe had been inform'd, that the Men in *England* were not always the beſt Huſbands; and that they would ſometimes be Panders to their Wives; and that if one little Gentleman did ſo, ſhe might

might expect the same Treatment from another little Gentleman.

'Tis much to be lamented she was not married, as we have the greatest Reason in the World to believe she wou'd have made a most excellent Figure in the different Characters of a Wife, a Mother, a Mistress, and a Friend.

However, her Death put a Stop to all Affairs of this Kind. — Her Distemper was the *Jaundice*, occasion'd, according to the Opinion of the Learned, by taking too many *Fluids* : By which some malicious People wou'd infer she died with Drinking ; which is a most scandalous Report ; but, like the Malice and Ingratitude of the World, when great Folks die and
can

can serve them no longer, they will be sure to defame and blacken their Memories.

But an eminent Physician of my Acquaintance, : one Doctor *Urine*, who attended her in her last Illness, tells me, that *Fluids* were not the Cause of her Death. — I ask'd him, if he cou'd inform me? But his Solution was dress'd up in so many unintelligible Terms, that I did not understand, and so cannot communicate it. He said, however, that there was some Meaning in the Account of the Cause of her Death: It is an Hint, says he, to the Women to beware of *Fluids*.

Thus died this Excellent Female. — And as she liv'd an Example

ample to all Womankind, so did she die lamented by all who knew her Virtues and were Eye-Witnesses of the Truth of what is here related : — But no one is so inconsolable (as indeed no one has more Reason) than the unfortunate Gentleman her Steward. — The poor Man is quite distracted for the Loss of his dear Mistress, and entirely despairs of ever getting so profitable a Place.

After her Death, I come to speak of her Religion : — But, as I wou'd omit no Praise that was due to her Merit, I wou'd say nothing of her that she did not deserve.

Alas! she had no Religion! — But this little Failure will easily be

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over-

over-look'd; especially as in this she imitated the Example of most Persons of Rank and Condition.— I cannot, however, but think this was an Omission; but, as an impartial Writer, I was determin'd to tell the Truth, nor attribute *that* to her of which she had not the least Notion.—She behav'd, if not religiously, very genteelly to all Sects and Persuasions.—Her Well-wishers observ'd, with Concern, that she betray'd most Pleasure in the Conversation of Deists and Free-thinkers.— Her Steward has inform'd me, since her Death, that in her Closet she was very conversant in a Book entitled, *Christianity as old as the Creation*; and one or two more whose Titles he had forgot;

forgot ; in all which she took great Delight and gave much Attention to. — He had Orders to purchase any Books of that Kind that were publish'd ; but, by Mistake, brought a Book wrote by a certain Dean ; which she no sooner had read but tore into a Thousand Pieces. — If she had no Religion, she had an excellent Taste, which made her make a much better Figure in the World. — However, I cannot but think she was well-inclin'd, and wou'd have made very considerable Progresses in her Duty had she not had wrong Principles, or, rather, had she had any Principles of Religion at all instill'd into her while young. — I wish this last Circumstance does not incline some

to think she was brought up in *Holland*.

The World will, undoubtedly, be very desirous of knowing what Party she was of. — As I profess Impartiality, I shall not conceal or misrepresent her political Principles, — She was a Whig, — and carried her Notions higher than any Woman was ever known to do. — She was very violent and sanguine; and, I believe, has done no small Injury to her Complexion on that Account — She had frequent Disputes with her Steward, who was of a good Family in *Oxfordshire*, and a great Tory.

She manag'd her Arguments with great Dexterity; but, through her
ex-

extraordinary Zeal, wou'd frequently assert what she could not prove. I was slightly inform'd she was the Author of a late Pamphlet or two; but was well assur'd, she wrote several Papers in the *Gazetteer*. — Some will not scruple to say she had a Salary for writing: I cannot aver the Truth of that; but 'tis agreed on all Hands, that some of the best Letters in that Paper are hers. There was an unfinish'd Pamphlet found in her Study, in Vindication of the Convention; which has been since compleated and publish'd by one of her particular Friends.

Thus have I attempted to give the World a Character of one, whose Memory will be respected
as

as long as any Regard is had to
 Virtue, Honour, Truth, or any
 other Excellence or Qualification
 whatever. — From these faint Out-
 lines it will be easily presum'd what
 a Figure she will make in History,
 when her Character shall be drawn
 by some able Historian ; when she
 shall be plac'd out of the Reach of
 Envy or Party Rage ; and her Me-
 mory be transmitted down to la-
 test Posterity. — In the mean Time,
 it will be the Happiness and Re-
 ward of the Author of these Pa-
 ges, that he has been the Instru-
 ment of presenting to the World
 this imperfect Sketch of so fine an
 Original ; and if he has not been
 able to do Justice to so great a
 Cha-

Character, has found Means to perpetuate his own Fame.

N. B. After having lain the usual Time in State, the Body will be interr'd in a most solemn and pompous Manner ; but we do not hear whether it is to be deposited in *Crane-Court* or *Westminster-Abbey*. — And lest the Proportion and Symmetry of the Person be forgot, there is a curious Print of her, taken from the Life, engrav'd by one of the best Hands, and is to be sold at all those Places where most other Persons of Eminence and Distinction are set to Sale.

F I N I S.

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Consider, but find them to
be contrary to our own nature.

After taking him the
which is in such a body will
be found in a most common
manner; but we do not
know whether it is to be dissolved
in the heart or in the lungs.
And for the proper
symmetry of the body
there is a certain kind
of symmetry in the
parts of the body
and it is to be found in all
parts of the body
and in all parts of the body
and in all parts of the body



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